

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting viable gas-borne matter
2 comprising:
3 an inlet;
4 an outlet;
5 a plate provided intermediate the inlet and the outlet and having a first surface
6 facing the inlet and a second surface facing the outlet; and
7 a substance provided on the first surface of the plate for capturing viable matter
8 carried in a gas drawn through the inlet;
9 wherein the substance is configured to maintain the viable matter in a living state
10 without promoting growth of the viable matter and comprises a hydrocolloid and at least one
11 nutrient.
- 1 2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance is at least one of a gel
2 and a semi-solid material.
- 1 3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the substance is relatively colorless.
- 1 4. (Cancelled)
- 1 5. (Cancelled)
- 1 6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the ~~algal-type~~
2 hydrocolloid ~~materials comprise~~ comprises at least one of agar, carrageenan, and alginate.
- 1 7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the ~~botanical-type~~
2 hydrocolloid ~~materials comprise~~ comprises at least one of arabic, karaya, guar, locust tara,

3 tamarind, daraya, ghatti, tragacanth, cellulose, starch, pectin, knonjac, glactomannans,
4 xyloglucan, and combinations thereof.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the ~~microbial-type~~
2 hydrocolloid ~~materials comprise~~ comprises at least one of curdlan, dextran, gellan, B-glucans,
3 chitosan, alginates, inulin, CRC biopolymer, and combinations thereof.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the ~~animal-type~~
2 hydrocolloid ~~materials comprise~~ comprises at least one of gelatin, caseinate, whey, and chitosan.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient is one of a
2 sugar, a cell culture serum, an amino acid, and a blood lipid.

1 11. (Original) The device of claim 10, wherein the nutrient is selected from the group
2 consisting of glucose, sucrose, bovine serum, glutamic acid, albumin, hemoglobin, charcoal,
3 sodium glycerophosphate, mercaptoacetic acid, sodium chloride, potassium citrate, potassium
4 chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, monopotassium phosphate, disodium phosphate,
5 sodium thioglycollate, L-cysteine hydrochloric, peptone, sodium phosphate, potassium
6 phosphate, and combinations thereof.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient also acts as a
2 pH buffer.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance further
2 comprises at least one of a humectant, water, and an anti-bacterial agent.

1 14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the humectant is selected from the
2 group consisting of mineral oil, plant oil, peanut oil, soybean oil, vegetable oil, corn oil,
3 molasses, honey, corn syrup, fruitrim, invertase, invert sugar, glycerin, Triacetin, an
4 hydrogenated glucose syrup, a polydextrose nutrient, and combinations thereof.

1 15. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the anti-bacterial agent is selected
2 from propylene glycol, vancomycin, and combinations thereof.

1 16. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the substance further comprises an
2 antifungal.

1 17. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance may be stored without
2 refrigeration between approximately 12 to 24 months.

1 18. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance is configured to allow
2 removal of the viable matter from the substance in a liquid.

1 19. (Original) The device of claim 18, wherein the liquid is water.

1 20. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises at least one
2 of insects, insect parts, and skin cells.

1 21. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises a virus.

1 22. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises bacteria.

1 23. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the inlet is configured for coupling to a
2 device configured to remove matter from the gas before the gas enters the inlet.

1 24. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is configured for coupling to
2 an exterior surface of a sampling device.

1 25. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a top portion
2 including the inlet and a bottom portion including the outlet, wherein the device is adapted to
3 allow decoupling of the top portion and the bottom portion to remove the plate.

1 26. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a single-use product that
2 is discarded after capturing viable matter.

1 27. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device includes a second inlet,
2 wherein the inlets are provided at different locations in relation to the suspension medium.

1 28. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the plate is made of at least one of
2 glass, porous glass fibers, a ceramic material, a porous polymeric material, and a metal.

1 29. (Previously Presented) A collection device for use in sampling gas that contains
2 viable matter comprising:

3 a suspension medium for preserving viable matter in a living state without
4 promoting growth of the viable matter; and

5 means for directing a flow of gas toward the suspension medium;

6 wherein the suspension medium is configured for capturing viable matter included
7 in the gas as the gas is drawn through the means for directing a flow of gas and comprises a
8 hydrocolloid and at least one nutrient.

1 30. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the means for directing a
2 flow of gas comprises an inlet.

1 31. (Original) The collection device of claim 30, wherein the inlet tapers from a top
2 of the inlet to a bottom of the inlet.

1 32. (Original) The collection device of claim 31, wherein the bottom of the inlet has a
2 rectangular shape when viewed in the axial direction.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension
2 medium is a gel or a semisolid material.

1 34. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium is
2 configured to preserve the viable matter without promoting further maturation of the viable
3 matter.

1 35. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium
2 includes a humectant, an anti-bacterial agent, and a hydrocolloid.

1 36. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium
2 comprises water and at least one of mineral oil, glycerin, galatin, and carageenan.

1 37. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium
2 comprises water and at least one of gellan, glycerin, calcium chloride, a polyol, honey, corn
3 syrup, and pectin.

1 38. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable matter comprises
2 at least one of a bacterium and a virus.

1 39. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable matter comprises
2 at least one of a anthrax, an insect, an insect part.

1 40. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the collection device is a
2 cassette having a top portion and a bottom portion and a plate provided within the cassette,
3 wherein the top portion and bottom portion may be separated to remove the plate.

1 41-65 (Cancelled)

1 66. (Cancelled)

1 67. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[66]] 1, wherein the ~~microbial-type~~
2 hydrocolloid ~~material comprises~~ comprises at least one of curdlan, xanthan, dextran, gellan, B-
3 glucans, chitosan, alginates, inulin, and CRC biopolimer.

1 68. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient is a protein.

1 69. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the humectant is a polyol.

1 70. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the anti-bacterial agent is
2 chloramphenicol.

1 71. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter
2 comprises mold spores.

1 72. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension
2 medium comprises water and starch.

1 73. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable
2 matter comprises a mold spore.

1 74. (Previously Presented) A collection device for gas-borne viable matter
2 comprising:

3 a plate;

4 a substance provided on the plate and comprising a hydrocolloid material and at
5 least one nutrient for capturing viable matter and maintaining the viable matter in a living state
6 without promoting growth; and

7 an inlet for directing a gas including the viable matter toward the substance.

1 75. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the hydrocolloid
2 material ~~is a microbial type hydrocolloid material~~ includes at least one material selected from the
3 group consisting of curdlan, xanthan, dextran, gellan, B-glucans, chitosan, alginates, inulin, and
4 CRC biopolumer.

1 76. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance
2 further comprises a humectant.

1 77. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 76, wherein the humectant
2 is a polyol and the nutrient is a protein.

1 78. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance
2 further comprises an anti-bacterial agent comprising chloramphenicol.

1 79. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance
2 is a gel.

1 80. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the collection
2 device is configured for coupling to a sampling device.

1 81. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the collection
2 device comprises a top portion comprising an inlet and a bottom portion removably coupled to
3 the top portion.